

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An accounting apparatus for charging for a process for image data, executed in response to a request from a requester, wherein the process for the image data includes at least a RIP processing for the image data, the accounting apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit that receives RIP data of the RIP processing; processing that identifies an item of the RIP processing executed on the image data;

a storing unit that stores a first relationship between a condition of the RIP processing and an accounting amount for the condition of the RIP processing;

a first accounting amount calculation unit that calculates a first accounting amount by using the RIP data of the RIP processing received by the receiving unit and the first relationship; and

an accounting unit that executes a first accounting processing of charging the requester, which has made the request for the image processing, for the calculated first accounting amount.

10. (Previously Presented) The accounting apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

a second accounting amount calculation unit that calculates a second accounting amount for image formation processing of the image data which is processed by the RIP processing, the image formation processing being a processing which prints an image of a recording medium, wherein:

the receiving unit receives data of the image formation processing;

the storing unit stores a second relationship between a condition of the image formation processing and an accounting amount for the condition of the image formation processing;

the second accounting amount calculation unit calculates a second accounting amount by using the data of the image formation processing received by the receiving unit and the second relationship; and

the accounting unit executes a second accounting processing of charging the requestor for the calculated second accounting amount.

11. (Original) The accounting apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:
the requester includes a first requester apparatus and a second requester apparatus; and
the first accounting amount calculation unit increases the first accounting amount for the first requester apparatus when the second requester apparatus executes the image processing requested by the first requester apparatus.

12. (Original) The accounting apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:
the requester includes a first requester apparatus and a second requester apparatus; and
the first accounting amount calculation unit decreases the first accounting amount for the second requester apparatus when the second requester apparatus executes the image processing requested by the first requester apparatus and then the image processing requested by the second requester apparatus is executed.

13. (Original) The accounting apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:
the request for the image processing designates details of the image processing; and
the first accounting amount calculation unit calculates the first accounting amount on the basis of the designated details of the image processing.

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) An accounting method for charging for each of processings for image data, which is executed in response to a request from a requester, wherein the processings include a RIP processing for the image data, the method comprising:

- receiving RIP data of the RIP processing; processing that identifies an item of the RIP processing executed on the image data;
- storing a first relationship between a condition of the RIP processing and an accounting amount for the condition of the RIP processing;
- calculating a first accounting amount by using the RIP data of the received RIP processing, and
- executing a first accounting processing of charging the requester, which has made the request for the image processing for the calculated first accounting amount.

17. (Original) The accounting method according to claim 16, wherein:

- the requester includes a first requester apparatus and a second requester apparatus; and
- the accounting processing increases the first accounting amount for the first requester apparatus when the second requester apparatus executes the image processing requested by the first requester apparatus.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a program causing a computer to execute a method for charging for a process for image data, executed in response to a request from a requestor, wherein the process for the image data includes at least a RIP image processing for the image data, the method comprising:

- receiving RIP data of the RIP processing; processing that identifies an item of the RIP processing executed on the image data;
- storing a first relationship between a condition of the RIP processing and an accounting amount for the condition of the RIP processing;

calculating a first accounting amount for the executed image processing by using the RIP data of the received RIP processing; and

executing a first accounting processing of charging the requester, which has made the request for the image processing and the image formation processing for the calculated first accounting amount.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 18, wherein:

the requestor includes a first requestor apparatus and a second requestor apparatus;
and

the accounting processing increases the first accounting amount for the first requestor apparatus when the second requestor apparatus executes the image processing requested by the first requestor apparatus.

20. (Previously Presented) The accounting apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the first relationship includes a plurality of relationships between a plurality of conditions of the RIP processing and a plurality of accounting amounts, each of the accounting amounts corresponding to each of the conditions.

21. (Previously Presented) The accounting apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the condition includes at least one of a file size and a number of pages.

22. (Previously Presented) The accounting apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the accounting unit starts to execute the first accounting processing before the image formation processing is executed.

23. (New) The accounting apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first accounting amount includes costs of image processing but not including costs of image formation.

24. (New) The accounting method of claim 16, wherein the first accounting amount includes costs of image processing but not including costs of image formation.

25. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 18, wherein the first accounting amount includes costs of image processing but not including costs of image formation.